

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-15 are the claims that have been examined in the application. Claims 12, 13 and 14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 1, 5-8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina, US Patent No. 6,965,872 in view of Aarnio, US Publication No. 2004/0078274. Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Mandler, US Patent No. 6,785,661. Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Luke, US Patent No. 6,131,087.

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1, 8 and 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1, 5-8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina, US Patent No. 6,965,872 in view of Aarnio, US Publication No. 2004/0078274.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, “receiving, from an information requester terminal, an information request that requests selling price information about a commodity, and communicating the information request directly to a plurality of information provider terminals.” Grdina discloses that a central database is searched for selling price information when a consumer requests selling price information on a particular good or service. However, the

consumer request is not *directly* communicated to the plurality of information provider terminals. Rather, the request is indirect to the plurality retailers, as only the database is searched. Thus, Grdina fails to disclose this element of amended claims 1, 8 and 15. Further, Aarnio fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Grdina. Thus, amended claims 1, 8 and 15 are patentable over the proposed combination of Grdina and Aarnio.

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

B. Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Mandler, US Patent No. 6,785,661.

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are dependent from amended claims 1 and 8. Because the combination of Grdina and Aarnio fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claims 1 and 8, and because Mandler fails to cure the defects noted with respect to amended claims 1 and 8, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Luke, US Patent No. 6,131,087.

Claims 4 and 11 are dependent from amended claims 1 and 8. Because the combination of Grdina and Aarnio fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claims 1 and 8, and because Luke fails to cure the defects noted with respect to amended claims 1 and 8, claims 4 and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 09/987,667

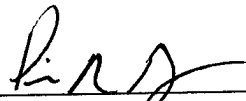
Attorney Docket No.: Q67321

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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